bank has to be classified under Category 'C'.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had appointed Investment Information & Credit Rating Agency of India (ICRA), a leading firm of consultants, for conducting an indepth study of UCO Bank and suggest strategies for its turnaround. The firm has since submitted its report which is under consideration.

Duty Drawback by Companies

3578. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of fraudulently claiming due to drawback by some firms have come to the notice of the Government during 1996 so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against guilty persons; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to plug all loopholes to check recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, during this year some cases involving fradulent claims of duty drawback have come to the notice of the Customs Department. In one case proprietor of the firm has been arrested and recovery of Rs. 2 lakhs has been made from the company. Investigations in these cases are in progress.

(d) The drawback procedure has already been streamlined by introducing a new Customs & Central Excise Duty Drawback Rules in the year 1995. However, in order to prevent recurrence of fradulent drawback claims, procedure for processing of drawback claims by doing away with the necessity of filing separate claims treating the drawback shipping bills themselves as claims for drawback, by reducing the incidence of drawal of samples for tests, modification of procedure for payment of drawback amounts and computerisation of drawback processing are under active consideration of the Department.

Standard Deduction for Salaried Employees

3579. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODALYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received representations from several people that the standard deduction which had been raised from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 18,000 for salaried employees having an annual income of Rs. 60,000 should be extended to all salaried sections; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The post-Budget representations are examined by the Government as a normal exercise.

Indian Institute of Coal Management

3580. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Coal Management, Ranchi has an annual budget of 12.5 crores;

(b) if so, the average cost of training for executive per day during the year 1995-96; and

(c) the capacity utilization i.e. the total training days available stating the number of working days, the number of class-rooms and the number of participant accommodated alongwith the actual utilized training days?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The annual budget of Indian Institute of Coal Management (IICM) for the year 1996-97 is as under :

Revenue - Rs. 7.5 crores

Capital - Rs. 2.23 crores

(b) The average per day cost of training of an executive for the year 1995-96 was Rs. 2,970/-.

(c) The capacity utilization during the year 1995-96 was 57% which has been worked out on the following basis:

i)	No. of working days	—	283
ii)	No. of class rooms	—	5
iii)	Average capacity of the class room	—	20
iv)	Maximum trainee days available during the year	—	28300
v)	Actual trainee days achieved during the year	—	16165

Export of Prawn to U.S.

3581. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that U.S. Government has banned the import of prawn from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Based on a ruling of the U.S. Court of International Trade given on 29.12.95, Section 609 of the U.S. Public Law No. 101-162 shall be applicable to India alongwith various other nations, implying that India must comply with the requirements of Section 609 by 1st May, 1996 in order to export wild harvested shrimps to USA beyond this date. The shrimps sourced from aquaculture have been excluded from the above ruling. Government of India has authorised Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) to countersign a certificate (DSP-121 as prescribed by U.S. Government) authenticated by exporters concerned that a particular consignment of shrimps for exports to USA has been sourced from aquaculture.

The Government of India had the matter examined in a meeting of Committee of Secretaries (COS). Various options like taking the matter to the World Trade Organization (WTO), approaching U.S.Government with details on the regulatory programme which is in vogue in India and the possibility of notifying mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices by trawlers of an overall length of over 10 metre are under active consideration.

Export Oriented Units in M.P.

3582. SHRI VISVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of export oriented units which have been set up in Madhya Pradesh with the details of their export commitment;

(b) the details of those units which have been able to meet their export commitment with their earning through export;

(c) the details of those units which have not been able to meet their export commitment with the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to see the performance of these export oriented units and meet their export commitment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) 23 Export Oriented Units were in production on 31st March, 1996 in the State of Madhya Pradesh with stipulated Value Addition ranging from 20% to 74.40%.

(b) and (c) Annual monitoring exercise of the export performance of those units which have completed one year or more as on 31.3.96 has been completed recently and provisional results are as follows :

(a) Units which have achieved stipulated Value Addition : 4

(b) Units with shortfall of more than 10% stipulated Value Addition but positive Net Foreign Exchange (FFE) : 8

(c) Units with negative Value Addition/Net Foreign Exchange : 5

(d) The performance of Export Oriented Units is reviewed by the Government annually on the basis of monitoring reports of Development Commissioners (DC's) of Export Processing Zones with reference to achievement of stipulated Value Addition. Whereas the units with some shortfall are kept under watch through the Development Commissioners, the cases of serious default are referred to Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for penal action under Foreign Trade (Development and Control) Act, 1992. To facilitate the export production by EOUs a transparent and simplified framework of Policy & Procedures has been put in place by the Government. The external marketing efforts of EOUs are assisted by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and also the respective Commodity Boards & Councils.

Pricing of Coal

3583. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to spent a part of the additional amount earned due to deregulation of pricing of coking and non-coking coals for the welfare of the workers of those companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the factors leading to the deregulation of coking and non-coking coals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) All welfare activities for the workers are undertaken by the coal companies in consonance with industry practice and wage agreements. The deregulation of prices of coal was accepted by the Government as per recommendation of BICP to improve the financial viability of coal companies and to generate funds, among others, for investments in production of additional volumes of coal and other allied activities.

Pending Projects

3584. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed the Public Sector Companies to give up 55 projects on